

PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE

Public Workshops

First Public Workshop - August 3, 1995

Approximately 125 people attended the day-long workshop held in Sacramento at the Red Lion Hotel. Discussion focused on the problems in the Bay-Delta system to be addressed by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Key elements included: problems; objectives; causes; and action. Initial contemplation about problems in the Bay-Delta system focussed on 4 primary resource areas:

- ◆ Water Quality - The quality of water is insufficient for municipal, industrial, recreational and agricultural uses and to support a diverse and productive environment. Various causes were listed, including pollutant, water supply and natural constituents causes.
- ◆ Ecosystem Quality - Aquatic habitat, wetland habitat, terrestrial habitat and riparian habitat are insufficient to support a diverse and productive ecosystem. Populations of certain species do not indicate a healthy ecosystem.
- ◆ Water Supply Reliability - The supply of water from the Delta is insufficient to meet the beneficial uses depending on the Delta.
- ◆ System Vulnerability - Important functions of the Delta are vulnerable to upset or disaster.

The workshop was conducted in a large group discussion format to allow all participants to hear and discuss problems and concerns.

Second Public Workshop - September 14, 1995

The second public workshop in Sacramento, attended by approximately 90 people, focused on refining the definitions of problems within the Bay-Delta system and began to develop objectives for each of the four resource areas (as outlined in Aug. 3 Workshop Summary). The workshop was structured around 5 topics in a group discussion format:

- ◆ Problem statements
- ◆ Program objectives
- ◆ Program mission statement
- ◆ Causes of Bay-Delta problems
- ◆ Phase I planning process

CALFED Executive Director Lester Snow highlighted the steps to develop a short list of alternatives for environmental review:

- ◆ Define the problems
- ◆ Develop objectives
- ◆ Identify causes and actions
- ◆ Assemble actions into alternatives
- ◆ Evaluate performance and impacts of alternatives
- ◆ Refine and improve alternatives

The Mission Statement was discussed and the current wording is as follows:

“The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and to improve water management for the beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system.”

Public Meetings

First Public Meeting- September 25, 1995

The first public meeting in Stockton, CA was attended by approximately 50 individuals. Lester Snow presented an general overview of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and introduced five BDAC members in attendance (Roberta Borgonova, Alex Hildebrand, Stuart Pyle, Hap Dunning, and Pat McCarty). The presentation emphasized that a lasting solution must be both comprehensive and collaborative, and that public outreach is a vital component of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

San Joaquin County Supervisor, George Barber, described the county's water problems, including saline intrusion, groundwater degradation and the need for additional surface water supplies. Other comments and questions covered topics from interface with the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards to vigorous requests that any solution include San Joaquin County problems, and that participation must include its representatives.

Work stations were set-up with specific information on each resource area to enable participants to pursue more intensively any or all problems on an individual basis. Lengthy and productive dialogue followed with various interests exchanging information and ideas with BDAC members and CALFED representatives. The meeting concluded shortly after 9:00 p.m.

Since the last BDAC meeting, a fifth Public meeting has been added to the schedule. On January 24, 1996, CALFED will hold a public meeting in Fresno, CA to complete the round of public meetings scheduled to coincide with Phase 1 of the Program.

Additional public meetings will be scheduled in 1996 to provide opportunities for input into the EIS/EIR phase of the program although no dates have been established at this time. As in Phase 1 of the Program, the Program will conduct public meetings to facilitate public comment throughout the State.

Outreach Materials

Second CALFED Brochure: "The Process"

The program recently completed the write-up and production of the second information brochure covering the planning process being used by the CALFED program with emphasis on the steps contemplated for Phase 1 (See enclosed). The Program is using this handout at public workshops and meetings and as information is requested about the Program.

Program Update

The first Program Update is under development. This brief overview of recent event in the program will summarize the workshops and public meetings and provide an up-to-date status report of program status. We expect this product to be available by the BDAC meeting.